

# Report of possible overdose results in arrest of Marion couple

Recently, while on routine patrol, ISP Trooper Edward Titus responded to the Marion Walmart for a report of a possible overdose. Upon arriving on scene, along with other officers and EMS, two adults and three children were located in a green Dodge Caravan in the Walmart parking lot. A male passenger, identified as Flex Stevens, 40, was in a semi-conscious state and was transported to Marion General Hospital. While Stevens was being treated, Titus spoke with



the female driver, Cynthia Blevins, 37, who advised that she had recently driven to Walmart from her home. Evidence available to Titus indicated that Blevins and Stevens had both recently ingested narcotics. Further investigation led Titus to develop probable cause to

believe that Blevins had operated a vehicle while under the influence of illegal narcotics. Blevins was transported to Marion General Hospital where she was medically cleared and then consented to a blood draw before being taken to the Grant County Jail on charges of operating while intoxicated and three counts of child neglect. Stevens was medically cleared from MGH and then transported to the Grant County Jail for two counts of child neglect.

Three children, ages 2, 3, and 14, were left in the care of the Indiana Department of Child Services in Grant County. Titus was assisted on this incident by Marion Police Department, EMS from Marion General Hospital, and the Indiana Department of Child Services in Grant County. Removing impaired or drugged drivers from Indiana roadways continues to be a daily priority for officers of the Indiana State Police.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Indiana History  
Answers

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## Anniversary

after-school organization, the Training Center is much more than a place that helps students with homework. The organization not only helps students improve academically, but also socially, emotionally, and physically, allowing them to achieve their goals and follow their dreams, whatever they may be.

“Our mission is to highlight students in our community and bring awareness to a community of students who are at risk academically, physically, socially, or a combination of things, and we partner with those families to give them the tools that will help get to dream and have a successful future.”

Back in 2011, Prows saw a need in the Marion and Grant Community – a place where students could go to improve their academics, as well as other skills, without fear of judgement or scrutiny, and a place where students could work towards achieving their long term goals.

And since then, it has flourished, serving over 123 families and 205 different students across Marion and various other school systems.

“The Training Center, as a group, saw the need in our community to stand in the gap to create a puzzle piece for families who did not have the resources to obtain quality, academic assistance for their students who lacked in reading and math skills,” Prows said. “Since 2011, we have partnered with families to provide a free, safe, out-of-school organization to give students additional tools to make their dreams, and their futures, brighter.”

The original idea was to provide a place for at-risk students who lived in a three-block radius of the Training Center to receive

assistance as well as a little enrichment in the forms of music, art, and nutrition. Additionally, the Training Center made the decision to work with 25 students per year.

On the first day, Prows, a coworker, and two students from Indiana Wesleyan opened the doors of the Training Center to eight students, and the rest is history.

Along with serving students from Marion Community Schools, the Training Center also works with students from Oak Hill and Mississinewa. Additionally, along with academic help, the Training Center staff provides social and emotional assistance to those in need, helping students become the best version of themselves.

“[Mary] is an amazing director, and the Training Center has provided so many wonderful opportunities for kids right here in our community,” United Way of Grant County Alicia Hazelwood said. “The heart that the individuals have for the children of Grant County is just impressive, and I am so thankful to be a community partner with them.”

Students attend an average of three years, with one student being served for nine years. Regardless of time spent at the Training Center, students, and volunteers, have all been touched in a positive way.

“The Training Center helped me a lot, especially in school,” former Training Center student Madison Wright said. “The Training Center pushed me and got me to where I want to be. I had a lot of fun here. My reading got a lot better here, and it just helped me with my work and everything in general.”

“With Madison coming to the Training Center, I think that it really helped

her be able to express herself more,” her mom, Alane Wright, added. “It just really impacted her life. If not for the Training Center, I do not think that Madison would be where she is at today.”

For Jeff Marshall, a former Indiana Wesleyan student and current elementary physical education teacher, the Training Center allowed him to discover his passion and find his desired path.

“It was an absolutely awesome experience,” Marshall said. “The people that I got to encounter and the kids whose lives I got to influence just walking them through various situations like problem solving and social interaction... working at the Training Center really gave me a heart for kids.”

The Training Center closed for most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and during that time, Prows and her team looked at where the program was succeeding, what they would like to do better, what kept them from doing the things that they wanted to do, and what they could do to strengthen the organization to propel them forward.

Prows then began the process of writing a grant, before applying to become a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center, which is recognized, and funded, by the Indiana Department of Education.

Officially, according to Prows, the Training Center will become a full-fledged 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center. The grant will serve 60 students, and allow the Training Center to hire full-time employees dedicated to serving the youth of Grant County.

Additionally, Prows and the Training Center will be purchasing a bus in order to provide transportation to and from, taking the burden off parents and

guardians.

Over the last decade, the Training Center has become the premier after-school program in Grant County. Now, Prows, and her team, look to the future.

“We are taking what was just a vision and working to expand that as we go forward, hopefully, for the next 10 years,” Prows said. “Most of you have been part of our journey over the last 10 years, and we hope that you continue to be part of that journey.”



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